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## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

22 January 1962

Dear Joshua,

Thank you for your recent letter telling me of the deliberations of your Long-Range Planning Council of the American Institute for Biological Sciences looking toward the greater unification of the biological sciences.

When in 1944 I took over from Elmer Butler the task of creating the AIBS, and during the succeeding years of organizing the Institute against the opposition of the fragmented societies which now comprise the Institute, I hoped that what you are now working for would be accomplished. And so I am delighted by your efforts.

Again, when Burr Steinbach and I got the Institute under way within the Academy-Research Council, we hoped that we might be able to overcome through the influence of the Institute the biological sectionalism which has characterized the Academy, although fortunately not the Research Council.

During this fall I have asked the members of the Council of the Academy to formulate in writing their ideas as to how the Academy could better organize itself generally in order to foster a greater unity of the sciences. These proposals will be considered at the February meeting of the Council and plans will be submitted to the Chairmen of the several Sections who comprise the Advisory Committee on Membership. If there is a report of your Planning Council that could be made available to us for the February 11th meeting of our Council, it would, I am sure, be helpful.

Because of your interest in the greater unity of the biological sciences, you will be interested to know that we are determined to have no departments within The Rockefeller Institute; I hope that this will foster the unity to which you are so wisely dedicated.

With warm personal regards and all best wishes, I am

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Yours sincerely,



Detlev W. Bronk

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